

I P S B
INDIANA PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Executive Committee, Indiana Professional Standards Board

FROM: Judy Miller, Director of Assessment

DATE: September 17, 2002

RE: Elementary Education Praxis II Qualifying Score

Currently, Indiana has the lowest qualifying score (143) on the Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (0011) of all the states which have adopted this test for licensure. Other qualifying scores range from 146 for the District of Columbia to 168 for Pennsylvania licensure. Both Ohio and Kentucky have adopted this test instrument, with qualifying scores of 162 and 163 respectively.

In 1999, the qualifying score adopted by the Indiana Professional Standards Board was in the midrange of acceptable scores. This test was one of the first aligned with national standards. Since the test was adopted both teacher preparation and the expectations for teacher performance in the classroom have changed. For the last year for which the statistics were available, 3.3% of the 2086 individuals taking the assessment in Indiana did not pass. At this qualifying score 6.0% of the national population of test takers in the score distribution furnished by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) would not have been successful. The median score for Indiana test takers in the ETS 2000-2001 data was 180, while the national median was 177. Taken together these figures suggest that our Indiana graduates are doing as well or better than candidates nationally.

Adjusting the qualifying score will result in a decrease in the number of candidates eligible for Indiana licensure. Since individuals have multiple opportunities to take the assessment and achieve a qualifying score if unsuccessful on the first attempt, this will not have a major impact on the supply of qualified candidates for teaching positions in the state.